

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066 SEP 06 2006

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 28-31 are now in the application. Claims 1-3 and 5-14 remain allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 15 has been amended to correct the formal objection that the claim improperly recites an antecedent basis for limitations of the claim. Arguments in support of the claim limitations that particularly and patentably define the uplink processor of claims 15, 16 and 28, together with the uplink processor method steps of new claims 29-31 are presented below. All the claims are now considered allowable over the prior art of record as discussed in detail below.

The Examiner objected to claims 15, 16 and 28 as indefinite for failing to recite proper antecedent basis for the encoder of claim 15, line 6. The claim has been amended to recite that said encoder refers to the corresponding encoders of the plurality forming part of the encoder with a switch logic input automatically sensing formats of audio signals. As a result, the claim now formally iterates the formation of the output data in the form of digital transport packets previously recited in the claim.

Claims 15, 16 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hiroi in view of Rao et al. However, as previously discussed of record, Hiroi relates to improvements in decoder technology and does not address uplink processing or encoder input in a direct satellite broadcast system. Moreover, Rao et al. also refers to improvements in processing methods performed in an audio decoder, and has no teachings or suggestions related to uplink processing. Accordingly, the combination of references fails to form a proper ground for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 15 particularly defines an encoder in the uplink processor of a direct satellite broadcast system, which uses switch logic input that is not shown or suggested in either of the references. As claimed, the switch logic input automatically senses a plurality of audio signal encoded formats and redirects signals to a plurality of corresponding encoders. Neither Hiroi nor Rao et al. disclose such a sensing mechanism prior to generating data output in the form of digital transport packets in an uplink processor. Rather both cited patents discuss processing improvements in decoder technology and do not address the subject matter of the claim limitations.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

In addition, claim 16 further defines the switch logic input as including a compression detector in a serial digital interface router, and such uplink processing is not taught or suggested by either Hiroi or Rao et al. Similarly, the reference to a compression detector in claim 28 is not anticipated or suggested by any uplink processing teachings of Hiroi which was particularly concerned with improved signal handling in a receiver. Likewise, the improvements of receiver processing taught by either Hiroi or Rao et al. do not teach or suggest how the processing improvements would be adapted to or accommodated in uplink processing particularly defined in Applicant's claims.

The significant difference between uplink processing, and processing improvements in broadcast receivers is now reemphasized in new method claims 29-31. These claims correlate with apparatus claims 15, 16 and 28 insofar as the actions performed in each of the methods are expressly limited to direct satellite broadcast systems with an uplink processor. Moreover, the particular acts of sensing a plurality of audio signals with encoded formats including at least one AC-3 audio signal, and redirecting each of the sensed signals so the plurality of signals to a corresponding encoder for outputting digital transport packets, particularly and patentably defines over the receiver processing methods disclosed in Hiroi, Rao et al. and other references of record. Likewise, the steps of claims 30 and 31, in which multiplexing the output occurs with different kinds of data in an uplink processor, does not result from the decoding processing apparatus taught by Hiroi and Rao et al. Accordingly, these method claims also particularly and patentably define the present invention over the teachings of the cited references as would be understood by persons of ordinary skill in the art having to deal with uplink processing of direct satellite broadcast systems.

SEP 06 2006

Serial No. 09/345,659

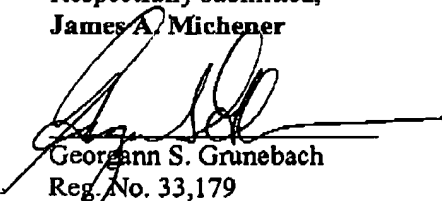
PD-990066

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that there is no fee required for this amendment response; however, in the event that the applicant has overlooked the necessity of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0383.

Respectfully submitted,
James A. Michener



Georgann S. Grunebach
Reg. No. 33,179
Attorney for Applicant

Date: September 6, 2006

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA / LA1 / A109
P.O. Box 956
2230 E. Imperial Highway
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

Phone: 310-964-4615